

Auditor-General of South Africa

# Dannhauser Municipality - Audit report 2016-17

# Report of the auditor-general to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature and the council on Dannhauser Municipality

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Dannhauser Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Dannhauser Municipality as at 30 June 2017, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2016 (Act No. 3 of 2016) (DoRA).
3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this report.
4. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants* (IESBA code) and the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Emphasis of matter

6. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Material impairment

7. As disclosed in note 5 to the financial statements, material losses of R3,67 million (2015-2016: R11,97 million) were incurred as a result of an impairment to trade debtors.

### Other matter

8. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## **Unaudited disclosure notes**

9. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the MFMA the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA in the financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

## **Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements**

10. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA, DoRA and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
11. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the Dannhauser Municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the intention is to liquidate the municipality or cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

12. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
13. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

### **Report on the audit of the annual performance report**

#### **Introduction and scope**

14. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected development objectives presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
15. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the municipality. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions

relating to planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.

16. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected objectives presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2017:

Development objectives	Pages in the annual performance report
Basic services delivery	32 – 40
Local economic development	40 – 44

17. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.

18. The material findings in respect of the usefulness and reliability of the selected development objectives are as follows:

#### **Local economic development**

##### **Performance indicators were not well defined**

19. The source information, evidence and method of calculation for the achievement of the following planned indicators were not clearly defined, as required by the Framework for Managing Programme Performance Information (FMPPI). This was due to a lack of technical indicator descriptions for the following four performance indicators:

- Implementation of Rural Development initiative
- Implementation of LED project
- Promotion and support of local SMMEs
- Promotion and support of Local Information Economy

#### **Other matters**

20. I draw attention to the matters below.

##### **Achievement of planned targets**

21. The annual performance report on pages 32 to 44 includes information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and explanations provided for the under-achievement of a significant number of targets. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in paragraph 19 of this report.

## **Adjustment of material misstatements**

22. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information of Basic service delivery development objective. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

## **Report on the audit of compliance with legislation**

### **Introduction and scope**

23. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
24. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

### **Annual financial statements**

25. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122 of the MFMA. Material misstatements of non-current assets and revenue identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

### **Consequence management**

26. Some of the losses resulting from irregular expenditure were certified by council as irrecoverable without having conducted an investigation to determine the recoverability of the expenditure, in contravention of section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.
27. The condonation of irregular expenditure of R3,16 million was not approved by the appropriate relevant authority, as required by sections 1 and 170 of the MFMA.

### **Asset management**

28. An effective system of internal control for assets was not in place, as required by section 96(2)(b) of the MFMA.

### **Expenditure management**

29. Effective steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure of R9,97 million as disclosed in note 39 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA.

## **Procurement and contract management**

30. Some of the contracts were awarded to bidders based on functionality criteria that were not stipulated in the original invitation for bidding, in contravention of Preferential Procurement Regulation 4 of 2011.

## **Other information**

31. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report which includes the mayor's foreword, accounting officer's and audit committee's reports. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected objectives presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in the auditor's report.

32. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

33. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected objectives presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

34. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein; I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate; however, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

## **Internal control deficiencies**

35. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of financial statement, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance thereon.

36. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the findings on the performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.

## **Leadership**

37. The mayor and the municipal council did not adequately exercise oversight responsibility to ensure that findings on the annual financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with key legislation are adequately addressed.

## **Financial and performance management**

38. Management has not ensured that the action plans were rigorously implemented and monitored to ensure that the annual financial statements and annual performance report are supported by complete and accurate information.

## **Governance**

39. The audit committee and internal audit did not adequately review on the reporting of predetermined objectives and financial statements. The risk management activities performed were not adequate to ensure that key financial, performance and compliance risks were identified and addressed timeously.

*Auditor-General*

Pietermaritzburg

30 November 2017



*Auditing to build public confidence*

## Annexure – auditor-general's responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected objectives and on the municipality's compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

### Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in the auditor's report, I also:
  - Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
  - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality's internal control
  - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the accounting officer.
  - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Dannhauser Municipality's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a municipality to cease continuing as a going concern
  - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
  - obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

### **Communication with those charged with governance**

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.